

## RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Session #28

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the 2010-2014 Rainy River District School Board on September 3, 2013 at 7:00 p.m., Crossroads School, Devlin.

**Board Members Present** Michael Lewis, Dianne McCormack, David Kircher, Dan Belluz, Ralph Hill, Marg Heyens

**Regrets** Earl Klyne

**Student Trustee** Leah Fraser

**In Attendance** Heather Campbell, Laura Mills, Casey Slack, Al McManaman, Brent Tookenay, Travis Enge, Ann Cox, Meghan Cox, Stephen Danielson

### RESOLUTIONS

- Res. #355 HILL-KIRCHER That the Rainy River District School Board approve the agenda for September 3, 2013, Regular Board meeting as amended. CARRIED
- Res. #356 HILL-KIRCHER That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting June 4, 2013 (Session 27), having been typed and distributed, be approved. CARRIED
- Res. #357 HILL-KIRCHER That the minutes of the Special Board Meeting June 18, 2013 having been typed and distributed, be approved. CARRIED
- Res. #358 HILL-KIRCHER That the minutes of the Special Board Meeting August 28, 2013 having been typed and distributed, be approved. CARRIED
- Res. #359 KIRCHER-HILL That the Rainy River District School Board approve the following policy:  
6.70 Disposal of Surplus Equipment, Furniture, and Books CARRIED
- Res. #360 KIRCHER-HILL That the Rainy River District School Board approve the amended Townshend Theatre Agreement. CARRIED
- Res. #361 KIRCHER-HILL That the Rainy River District School Board renew the Ontario Public School Boards' Association Annual Membership for 2013-14. CARRIED
- Res. #362 HILL-KIRCHER That the Rainy River District School Board receive the Personnel Report dated September, 2013. CARRIED
- Res. #363 HILL-KIRCHER That the Rainy River District School Board adjourn at 9:14 p.m. CARRIED

### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

An agenda item was added under Board Reports – 10.8. The agenda for the September 3, 2013 Regular Board meeting was approved as amended. (resolution #355)

### OATH OF OFFICE – STUDENT TRUSTEE

The Director of Education introduced Atikokan High School student Leah Fraser, and administered the Declaration and Oath of Allegiance. Leah Fraser will assume the role of Student Trustee for the school year 2013-14.

### SILENT REFLECTION

The Chair called for a moment of silent reflection.

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There was no conflict of interest declared.

### RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

#### Best Buddies Program

Fort Frances High School Principal Peg Keffer and secondary teacher Michelle Mosbeck spoke about the Best Buddies Program which provides opportunities for students to interact among their peers. The program gives students with intellectual and physical disabilities the chance to socially interact with other students. Students involved in the program were in attendance at the Board meeting.

A slide presentation showed the many classroom activities that were held throughout the 2012-13 school year.

Chair Lewis extended thanks on behalf of the Board to staff and students involved in supporting students in the program.

### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting June 4, 2013 (Session 27). (resolution #356)

The Board approved the minutes of the Special Board Meeting June 18, 2013. (resolution #357)

The Board approved the minutes of the Special Board Meeting August 28, 2013. (resolution #358)

## BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Board members received correspondence from the Minister of Education regarding the hiring provisions within Ontario Regulation 274/12. This was in response to a letter sent by the Board to the Minister in July, 2013. There was no further discussion.

## SYSTEM PRESENTATION

### Accommodation Review Committee

Committee Chair, Krista Kellar, provided background information on the Accommodation Review process at Crossroads School which commenced on January 29, 2013.

Committee members Raechel Snowball, Alicia Gattoni, Aimee McTavish and Bridgit McGinnis provided an overview of the information received during the public consultation process as it related to Value to the Student, Value to the System, Value to the Community and Value to the Local Economy. Key points identified were based on the community feedback and the completed School Information Profile.

A slide show presentation was provided at the conclusion of the presentation.

The final recommendation was made by the Committee that the Rainy River District School Board keep Crossroads School open. (*Refer to the agenda p.25-28*).

It was noted that the final report and slide presentation would be available on the Board website.

Chair Lewis thanked the Committee for their participation throughout the Accommodation Review process and for their presentation. The Chair affirmed that Board members have not discussed the outcome of the three schools under review. It was noted that Administration will submit a report to the Board which includes a financial analysis. Trustees will then meet to review the information provided by the three Accommodation Review Committees – Donald Young School, Sturgeon Creek School and Crossroads School, and Administration, before making a final decision.

### Summer Literacy Program

Board members received a report on the Summer Literacy Program. (*Refer to p. 30 of the agenda.*) Brent Tookenay, Aboriginal Education Leader, spoke about the value of the Summer Literacy Program which was held during the month of July. The program was held at three sites – Donald Young School, Robert Moore School and Mine Centre School, and 71 students participated. A First Nations Métis Inuit component was included in this year's program. Summer Literacy Program teachers, Nicole Renberg, Claudette Bruyere and Priscilla Miller, spoke about the opportunities for students to work on their literacy skills through various activities.

## BOARD REPORTS

### Special Education Advisory Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held June 12, 2013. *(Refer to minutes p.32-27 of the agenda.)*

### Audit Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held June 13, 2013. *(Refer to minutes p.39-41 of the agenda.)*

Questions were addressed regarding the auditing process.

### Policy Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held June 17, 2013. *(Refer to minutes p.43-44 of the agenda.)*

The Board approved the following policy: (resolution #359)  
6.70 Disposal of Surplus Equipment, Furniture, and Books

There was discussion regarding the application process as outlined in Policy 6.10 Community Use of School Facilities and Grounds. The Director will look into use by a church for religious services. It was noted that applications have been made by groups using school facilities for church-sponsored youth activities, but not ongoing religious services.

### Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee held June 17, 2013. *(Refer to minutes p.46-47 of the agenda.)*

### Finance Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held June 18, 2013. *(Refer to minutes p.49-50 of the agenda.)*

There was discussion regarding the proposed facility partnership with Confederation College. Questions were addressed.

The Board approved the amended Townshend Theatre Agreement. (resolution #360)

### Parent Involvement Committee

Board members received the 2012-13 Annual Report of the Parent Involvement Committee which outlined accomplishments over the school year.

### Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Board members received a report from Trustee McCormack. OPSBA Board of Directors met on June 6, 2013 to discuss the future model for collective bargaining. Trustee McCormack participated in a conference call on July 19 with Geoff Williams, OPSBA's Director of Labour Relations, to discuss the legislated bargaining model.

It was noted that the OPSBA Annual General Meeting was held June 6-8 and was attended by Director of Education, Heather Campbell, Student Trustee Dexter Fichuk, and Trustees Ralph Hill and Dianne McCormack. OPSBA election of officers took place. Education Minister Liz Sandals spoke at the Annual General Meeting on the topics of negotiations, GSN's and Regulation 274. The Minister spoke about the need for cost savings within school boards. As well, Minister Sandals stated that because Regulation 274 is in the OECTA MOU it cannot be repealed but if an agreement can be reached between associations, unions and the government, then Regulation 274 could be amended. Trustee McCormack provided information on the sessions held at the Annual General Meeting. Some of the topics of interest were:

- Technology;
- Impact on Trustees from legal cases on Conflict of Interest and Privacy Law;
- Challenges faced by Access Copyright.

There was discussion about the need for OPSBA to actively campaign and press the government to allow Boards to be more involved in negotiations. Trustee McCormack agreed to bring this item to the OPSBA Board of Directors.

### OPSBA Annual Membership

Board members received correspondence from the Ontario Public School Boards' Association. There was discussion regarding the role of the organization and the benefit of the services provided to school boards.

The Board approved the renewal of the Annual Membership for 2013-2014. (resolution #361)

### Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program

A question was raised by Trustee Belluz regarding the new facility for the Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program. The Director of Education stated that there has been a longstanding partnership with the community's Christian Parents' Association. It was further reported that the building is paid for by the Parents' Association while the programs and teaching staff are provided by the Board. The school provides the same programming as Sturgeon Creek School and Fort Frances High School, and transportation is provided as per Board policy. It was recommended that the Board provide a media release to share this information with the public.

### Student Trustee Report

Leah Fraser, student at Atikokan High School, introduced herself and shared information on her background and involvement on Student Council. She stated that she was honoured to be chosen to represent the students as Student Trustee for the upcoming school year.

## Chair Report

Chair Lewis extended a welcome to all Rainy River District School Board staff and students, especially to those students entering the Early Learning Program and students transitioning from elementary school to high school. A special thank you was extended to the maintenance staff for their work over the summer in preparing for the new school year.

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

### Director's Update

Heather Campbell, Director of Education, reported to Trustees on activities and events that occurred provincially, regionally and locally in June, July and August 2013.

In addition to the graduation ceremonies held across the District and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation local negotiations, the highlights included:

- The Director attended a Mentoring-Coaching Skills Training Session for System Leaders in Toronto August 15-16 where participants agree to commit to act as a mentor/coach for at least 2 years;
- Directors across the province attended the annual Council of Ontario Directors of Education meeting August 22-23 and highlights included:
  - an increased focus by the province on cost-saving measures, such as shared spaces with other district school boards and municipalities;
  - concern about the achievement of Youth in Care;
  - continuation of Ministry of Labor inspections in all secondary technology and science classrooms;
  - a new initiative from the Ministry of Education which focuses on teacher inquiry learning with respect to the achievement of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students; the Rainy River DSB is one of the boards in the province that has received this funding, with the addition of another Student Work Study Teacher and support for teacher professional development;
  - the Ministry of Education is looking at expanding bandwidth for school boards.

Board members received a written summary of the Director's Objectives for 2012-2013 as it is linked to the Annual Operational Plan. In addition, Board members received a written report on the Director's Objectives for 2013-2014.

The Director spoke about the Rainy River District School Board Self-Assessment process as stated in Policy 1.07, The Role of the Board Member. It was noted that the Board conducted a Board self-assessment in January 2012. Following the approval of the Board's Strategic Plan in November 2012, a recommendation was made for the Board to complete a self-assessment for continued development during the 2013-14 school year. A Board Self-Review Assessment template was provided to Trustees for completion. The information will then be compiled and further discussed by Board members in November.

### Personnel Report

The Board received the Personnel Report as presented for September, 2013. (resolution #362)

The Personnel Report included the following:

### **Appointment**

Laurel Armstrong, 1.0 FTE DECE, DYS, commencing August 26, 2013  
Christine Badiuk, 1.0 FTE DECE, JWS, commencing August 26, 2013  
Ashley Bailey, 1.0 FTE DECE, JWS, commencing August 26, 2013  
Peter Gardiman, 1.0 FTE Assistant Manager, Plant & Operations, EC, commencing June 11, 2013  
Sarah Irwin-Gardner, 1.0 FTE Mental Health Team Leader, August 12, 2013 to August 11, 2014  
Patty McNally, 1.0 FTE 10 month Accounting Clerk, EC, commencing August 12, 2013  
Elizabeth Nussbaumer, 1.0 FTE DECE, DYS, commencing August 26, 2013  
Jim Scali, 1.0 FTE Vice Principal, AHS, commencing August 26, 2013  
Heather Schram, 1.0 FTE DECE, SCS, commencing August 26, 2013  
Sandra Ward, 1.0 FTE Administrative Assistant, EC, commencing August 12, 2013  
Farrell White, 1.0 FTE NSL Teacher, FHS, commencing August 26, 2013

### **Change in Assignment**

Bev Arpin, 1.0 FTE Teacher, MCS, commencing August 26, 2013  
Lynne Avis, 0.5 FTE Teacher JWS / 0.2 Teacher FTE RMS, commencing August 26, 2013  
Kari-Lynn Beckett, 1.0 FTE Student Work Study Teacher, EC, August 26, 2013 to June 20, 2014  
Charlayne Bliss, 1.0 FTE Secondary Curriculum Coordinator, August 26, 2013 to June 20, 2014  
Andrea Bodnar, 0.6 FTE Teacher, RIV / 0.15 FTE Surplus, commencing August 26, 2013  
Heather Bridgeman, 1.0 FTE Early Learning Coach, August 26, 2013 to June 20, 2014  
Anne Carradice, 1.0 FTE Vice Principal, SCAP, commencing August 19, 2013  
Kalon DeGagne, 1.0 FTE Teacher, FHS, commencing August 26, 2013  
Rosalie Dubuc, 0.3 FTE Teacher, CRS, August 26, 2013 to June 20, 2014  
Kelly Forbes, 1.0 FTE Special Education Vice Principal, EC, commencing August 19, 2013  
Cathy Gruttner, 1.0 FTE Administrative Assistant, EC, commencing August 19, 2013  
Craig Gustafson, 1.0 FTE Caretaker, MCS, commencing July 1, 2013  
Shelly Jones, 1.0 FTE Aboriginal Early Learning Liaison, Permanent, commencing August 26, 2013  
Jennifer Leishman, 1.0 FTE Student Work Study Teacher, EC, August 26, 2013 to June 20, 2014  
Teryl McFarland, 0.8 FTE Secretary, EC, August 26, 2013 to June 20, 2014  
Al McManaman, 1.0 FTE Superintendent of Education, EC, commencing August 19, 2013  
Priscilla Miller, 1.0 FTE Teacher, CRS, commencing August 26, 2013  
Missy Nelson, 1.0 FTE Medical Assistant, DYS, commencing August 26, 2013  
Diane Rumbolt-Carlson, 1.0 FTE Teacher, DYS, commencing August 26, 2013  
Jessica Sweigard, 0.9 FTE Teacher, JWS, commencing August 26, 2013  
Dianne Thompson, 1.0 FTE Principal, JWS, commencing August 19, 2013  
Bruce Wickstrom, 1.0 FTE Caretaker, SCS, commencing August 19, 2013

### **Leave of Absence**

Sarah Arpin, 1.0 FTE Teacher, NFS, August 3, 2013 to August 3, 2014  
Kendra Bodnar, 0.8 FTE Teacher, RIV, January 6, 2014 to June 20, 2014  
Michelle Cain, 0.5 FTE Teacher, RMS, August 26, 2013 to June 20, 2014  
Keira Chown, 0.5 FTE Teacher, JWS, August 26, 2013 to June 20, 2014  
Brian Church, 0.33 FTE Federation Leave, commencing August 26, 2013  
Dolly Evans, 1.0 FTE Secretary, NFS, August 26, 2013 to June 20, 2014  
Nicole Evans, 0.5 FTE Teacher, JWS, August 26, 2013 to June 20, 2014  
Christine Evans-Duquette, 0.8 FTE Teacher, NSC, August 26, 2013 to June 20, 2014  
Rebecca Himanen, 1.0 FTE Teacher, RHS, May 23, 2013 to April 27, 2014  
Elizabeth Husser, 0.8 FTE Teacher, SCAP, August 26, 2013 to June 20, 2014  
Jody Labossiere, Deferred salary leave, August 26, 2013 to June 20, 2014  
Tracy Lewis-Tucker, 1.0 FTE Teacher, JWS, August 2, 2013 to June 20, 2014  
Karen Peltomaki, 1.0 FTE Teacher, RMS, August 26, 2013 to June 20, 2014  
Marianne Perrier, 1.0 FTE EA, NCS, August 26, 2013 to June 20, 2014

Bev Strachan, 1.0 FTE ESP, NFS, August 26, 2013 to June 20, 2014  
Nicole Thomson, 0.5 FTE Teacher, CRS, August 26, 2013 to June 20, 2014

### **Resignation**

Scott Asselin, 1.0 FTE Maintenance IV, effective July 31, 2013  
Julie McTavish, 1.0 FTE Admin. Assistant Community Use, EC, effective July 19, 2013  
Chris Medicine, 1.0 FTE Teacher, FHS, effective August 19, 2013  
Jessica Sweigard, 0.6 FTE Custodian, MCS, effective July 1, 2013  
Joy Wilson, 0.2 FTE Secretary, RHS, effective August 14, 2013

### **Retirement**

Irving Blight, effective July 26, 2013  
Brigitte Schulzki, 1.0 FTE Educational Assistant, DYS, effective June 21, 2013

### Director's Annual Operational Plan

Director of Education, Heather Campbell, spoke about the goals and plans for 2013-2014 within each strategic plan pillar. An overview of the Annual Operational Plan was provided reflecting priorities for 2013-2014. The Director thanked administrative staff for their work on the plan. *(Refer to report p.56-73 in the agenda.)*

### Accommodation Review Committee for Crossroads School

Board members received the minutes of the Accommodation Review Committee meeting held on June 11, 2013. *(Refer to minutes p.78-79 of the agenda.)*

### Supervised Alternative Learning

Board members received a report on Supervised Alternative Learning from Casey Slack, Superintendent of Education. *(Refer to report p.81 in the agenda.)* The report outlines the purpose of Supervised Alternative Learning and how the program works. Questions by Board members were addressed.

### Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee meeting held June 6, 2013. *(Refer to minutes p.83-85 of the agenda.)*

### Summer Facility Projects

Board members received a report from Travis Enge, Manager of Plant Operations and Maintenance regarding facility projects completed throughout the summer, in preparation for the 2013-14 school year. *(Refer to report p.87-90 of the agenda.)*



## CORRESPONDENCE

Board members reviewed correspondence from school boards directed to Minister of Education, Liz Sandals and Premier Kathleen Wynne regarding Memoranda of Understanding. There was no further discussion.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

**Next Regular Board Meeting** – Regular Board Meeting, October 1, 2013, 7:00 p.m., Rainy River High School, Rainy River

**Special Education Advisory Committee** – September 11, 2013, 12:00 p.m., Education Centre

**Parent Involvement Committee** – September 12, 2013, 6:30 p.m., Education Centre

**Policy Committee** – September 16, 2013, 9:30 a.m., Education Centre

**Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee** – September 16, 2013, 4:15 p.m., Education Centre

**Audit Committee** – October 1, 2013, 1:00 p.m., Education Centre

**Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee** – October 3, 2013, 9:00 a.m., Education Centre

## WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS

### 2013-14 Calendar of Events – Ontario Public School Boards' Association

Northern Regional Meeting & Program, October 18-19, 2013, Valhalla Inn, Thunder Bay  
2014 Public Education Symposium, January 30 – February 1, 2014, Sheraton Centre Hotel, Toronto

2014 Labour Relations Symposium, March 20-22, 2014, Sheraton Centre Hotel, Toronto

2014 Annual General Meeting concurrent with CSBA Congress, July 3-5, 2014, Sheraton on the Falls Hotel, Niagara Falls

## ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 9:14 p.m. (resolution #363)

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Director/Secretary

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Chair